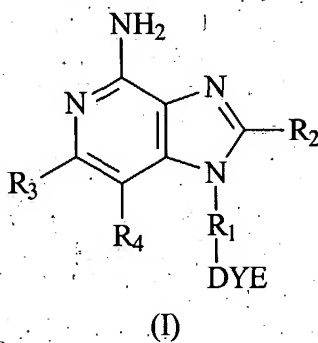


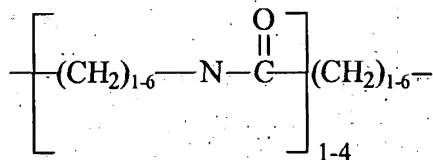
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of the formula (I):

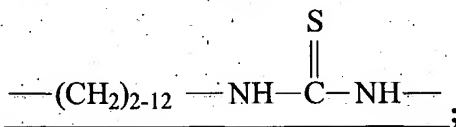


wherein:

R_1 is a spacer group selected from



and



R_2 is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, amidoalkyl, alkylamidoalkyl, dialkylamidoalkyl, alkanoylalkyl, azidoalkyl, carbamoylalkyl, alkyl optionally interrupted by a heteroatom; alkenyl, alkenyloxyalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl; aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, heteroarylalkyl, in which aryl is optionally substituted by alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, halo, amino, alkylamino or dialkylamino; aroylalkyl, or heteroaroylalkyl;

R_3 and R_4 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, halo, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, or when taken together, R_3 and R_4 form a fused aryl or heteroaryl group that is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, halo, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino,

hydroxy and alkoxyethyl; or

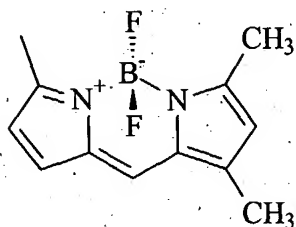
R₃ and R₄ form a fused 5- to 7-membered saturated ring, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms and optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, halo or haloalkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and

DYE is a dye moiety, ~~with the proviso that the dye moiety is not dansyl~~ selected from the group consisting of dipyrrometheneboron difluoride dyes, fluorescein dyes, rhodamine dyes, and Texas Red; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The compound of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1 wherein the ~~fluorescent~~ dye moiety is a dipyrrometheneboron difluoride dye.

7. (currently amended) The compound of claim 6 wherein ~~the dye moiety~~ DYE has the following structure:



8. (currently amended) The compound of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 wherein the ~~fluorescent~~ dye moiety is fluorescein.

9-12. (canceled)

13. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R₂ is hydrogen, alkyl containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy group contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms and the alkyl group contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

14-16. (canceled)